

BRAD WITT
State Representative

DISTRICT 31
PORTIONS OF COLUMBIA,
CLATSOP & SAUVIE ISLAND



May 31, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Thank you for the chance to address the Commission and discuss a couple of the more compelling reasons why the Commission should approve the merger of T-Mobile and AT&T. As a member of the Oregon State Legislature and former Secretary-Treasurer for the AFL-CIO, I believe the merger would benefit union workers while also improving the business climate in our state.

Let's start with the employment picture. AT&T is committing to a significant investment by requesting this merger. The investment is not just in infrastructure and technology—which we know will improve existing networks and will bring rural areas in line with metropolitan areas—it is also an investment in people. AT&T already has the largest full-time unionized workforce in the country and if it is allowed to merge with T-Mobile, the transaction will result in strengthening that workforce. That is why the Communications Workers of America (CWA) supports the merger. CWA recognizes that AT&T will be better able to retain and increase employment after the merger.

This is an important time for our national economy—and the economies of individual states. We need to take the proper steps to solidify the foundations of companies that are well-positioned to create new, good-paying jobs. The company created through the T-Mobile/AT&T merger will be well positioned to take advantage of the burgeoning wireless communications sector and support the union workforce.

Small businesses will benefit greatly from the merger of these two wireless companies, particularly small business in rural settings which, historically, have had trouble utilizing the latest wireless breakthroughs. Combining the resources and infrastructure T-Mobile and AT&T have built will free up capacity on existing systems and allow for greater speed and output on new systems. This opens the door for small businesses to use technology in ways they have not been able to before, enabling more efficiency and more productivity.

The world is changing fast and technology is creating new opportunities for start-up companies while allowing existing businesses to scale up without requiring significant investment in new hardware and systems technology. They can take advantage of the innovations AT&T and T-Mobile have already brought to market. This is wonderful news for emerging companies in rural sections of the Pacific Northwest as well as the big cities on the East Coast.

In summary, it is clear that the benefits of allowing this merger outweigh the detriments in the context of employment and small business development. I hope you will vote in support of this merger.

Sincerely,



Brad Witt

CC:

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell